

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 137. (Canceled)

138. (New) An output control apparatus communicating with an information processing apparatus via a network and controlling a printer, the output control apparatus comprising:

print counting means for counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

first trouble counting means for counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

second trouble counting means for counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches a predetermined value;

determination means for determining whether or not the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value;

transmission control means for controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted by said second trouble counting means to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value; and

initialization means for, if said determination means determines that the print count value counted by said print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted by said second trouble counting means, without accepting a manual operation by the user,

wherein said second trouble counting means repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value.

139. (New) An output control apparatus according to claim 138, wherein the print count value reaches the predetermined value.

140. (New) An output control apparatus according to Claim 138, wherein said transmission control means controls transmission of the trouble data and information unique to said output control apparatus at the same time.

141. (New) An output control apparatus according to Claim 138, wherein said output control apparatus is a digital copier.

142. (New) A method of communicating by an output control apparatus with an information processing apparatus via a network and controlling a printer, the method of communicating comprising:

a print counting step of counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

a first trouble counting step of counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

a second trouble counting step of counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches a predetermined value;

a determining step of determining whether or not the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a transmission control step of controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value; and

an initialization step of, if in said determination step it is determined that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step, without accepting a manual operation by the user,

wherein said second trouble counting step repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value.

143. (New) A method according to claim 142, wherein said initialization step initializes the print count value and the trouble count value if the print count value reaches the predetermined value.

144. (New) A method according to Claim 142, wherein said transmission control step controls transmission of the trouble data and information unique to the output control apparatus at the same time.

145. (New) A method according to Claim 142, wherein the output control apparatus is a digital copier.

146. (New) A memory medium, storing computer-executable code for a method of communicating by an output control apparatus with an information processing apparatus via a network and controlling a printer, the method of communicating comprising:

a print counting step of counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer;

a first trouble counting step of counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer;

a second trouble counting step of counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a determining step of determining whether or not the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value;

a transmission control step of controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said

determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value; and

an initialization step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the print count value counted in said print counting step reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted in said second trouble counting step,

wherein said second trouble counting step repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value.

147. (Previously presented) A memory medium according to claim 146, wherein said initialization step initializes the print count value and the trouble count value if the print count value reaches the predetermined value.

148. (New) A memory medium according to Claim 146, wherein said transmission control step controls transmission of the trouble data and information unique to the output control apparatus at the same time.

149. (New) A memory medium according to Claim 146, wherein the output control apparatus is a digital copier.

150. to 158. (Canceled)